

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

Dear Parents or Guardians:

A child in your family has expressed an interest in participating in the City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks Youth Co-Rec Soccer League. The staff welcomes you and your family to the program.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the soccer program is to provide an opportunity for all Rockville youth to learn the fundamentals of soccer and sportsmanship through participation. We hope the soccer program will offer more benefits than just scoreboard victories. It should be an opportunity for each child to make friends, become physically fit, develop self confidence, and acquire knowledge of the game.

The program will attempt to instill the will to win, the courage to accept defeat and disappointment, with emphasis on clean play and sportsman-like conduct at all times.

II. GENERAL LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

All teams in the league are coached by volunteer parents, brothers, sisters, neighbors, or just interested individuals. During the 2010 season, 20 teams were coached by such individuals. Coaches assume a great responsibility and need your support and understanding. Throughout the season, your help is often needed with transportation to and from games and practices. Parents should get in touch with their child's coach if they can help.

The league will be organized into the following divisions:

Tiny Kicks	2005 and/or in 1 st grade
Pee Wees	2003 & 2004 and/or in 2 nd -3 rd grade
Bantams	2001 & 2002 and/or in 4 th -5 th grade
Midgets	1998, 1999 & 2000 and/or in 6 th - 7 th or 8 th grade

NOTE: Children must play in division corresponding with their year of birth.

Practice time is allocated by the Recreation and Parks Department with the goal of providing each team with one practice during the week. All practices are scheduled at Rockville parks and schools. There is no practice when schools are closed.

Coaches are provided with basic team equipment. Team shirts will be provided to each team by the Recreation and Parks Department.

The registration fee for participation in Tiny Kicks and Pee Wee division program is \$56.00 for City residents and \$66.00 for non-residents who are attending Rockville schools. The registration fee for participation in the Bantam and Midget division program is \$58.00 for City residents and \$68.00 for non-residents.

Financial scholarships for participation are available through the **Rockville Recreation Fund**. The fees are collected by the City of Rockville Recreation Department during the initial registration sign-up.

III. SCHEDULE OF PLAY

All teams play at least once a week beginning September 10, 2011. The season will last approximately seven (7) weeks. The Midget Division is the only division that will have tournament play to determine the division champion. Check your schedules and tentative tournament dates. These dates should serve as your guide to program commitments. (Inclement weather may alter these dates.)

IV. OFFICIALS

All games are officiated by City of Rockville staff that have backgrounds in soccer and sports officiating.

Players, coaches, friends, and spectators are expected to treat the officials with respect and patience. It is important that coaches and spectators set a good example for the players, specifically when the official makes a call that does not seem right. Official's calls do not win or lose a game; players make many more mistakes during a game than the officials.

V. PLAYING RULES

The soccer program has special playing rules which govern player participation.

1. In the Rockville Soccer Program, every player on the roster and present at the game is strongly encouraged to play at least one half but no less than one quarter.
2. Substitutions may be made at period breaks, and during other game situations with the consent of the referee.
3. Players substituting must report to the referee.
4. "Off-sides" will be enforced in Midget League games, it will not be enforced in Pee Wee and Bantam League games except in flagrant situations.

VI. CONDUCT

The Recreation and Parks Department, the coaches, officials, and especially the players need your support and understanding during the games. Fans and spectators can be the greatest asset, or detriment, to a program.

Many parents enjoy watching their children compete in sports. Sometimes this involvement produces intense and anxious moments and the parent's behavior becomes embarrassing to other parents, officials, and more importantly, to their own children. Parents are encouraged to watch their children participate, provided their behavior meets acceptable standards, such as the following.

1. Parents should remain in the spectator area during the games.
2. Parents should not yell instructions or criticisms to the children.
3. Parents should make no derogatory comments to players, coaches, or other parents about the opposing team or the officials.

4. Parents must not interfere with their child's coach. They must be willing to relinquish the responsibility for their child to the coach for the period of the contest

It is the responsibility of the coach to control his own behavior and that of his assistant(s) and spectators. No coach or spectator may enter the field without the referee's permission.

We will be requesting parents to read and sign a "Parent's Code of Ethics" (now available on line) which has been developed and prepared by The National Youth Sports Coaches Association. These signed pledges should be returned to your child's coach.

The guiding principle for parents is that nothing in their behavior should distract from any child's enjoyment of the sport. Remember, as parents you should have a good opportunity to teach sportsmanship.

While parents must not interfere with their child's coach during the course of games and practices, parents continue to have primary responsibility for their child. (You are expected to transport your child to and from each practice and game on time). For safety, do not allow your child to be transported at any time in an open pick-up truck as it is against the law. Parents are strongly encouraged to stay and observe their child and assist the coach, if asked.

All coaches have participated in a coaches' training program. The National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) is a Coaches' Certification program which gives instruction on the psychology of coaching youth sports, how to improve performance through proper conditioning, first aid, and a variety of techniques for organizing practices. We and NYSCA have established a code of ethics for coaches which require coaches to act in a sportsman-like towards opponents and officials. Coaches are constantly being observed and evaluated for conformance to the code of ethics.

We thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Each child is important! Through programs such as the Rockville Co-Rec Soccer League, youth have the opportunity to experience teamwork and participation in a sport.

We hope that you, as a parent, will accentuate the positive. Research has shown that children who have positive reinforcement have high self-esteem at the end of the season, and tend to reflect back on the program as one filled with fun and enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Jen Betts
Sports Specialist